

A Study of Attitude of Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh

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Abstract- The study compares the Attitude of Geography Teachers towards Geography Education in the selected three districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The total of 111 samples were taken from three selected districts. The three districts were randomly selected through simple random sampling techniques and they are Lohit, Lower Subansiri and West Siang Districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The researcher followed Normative Survey Method for the present piece of work. The analysis was done with mean, standard Deviation and 't' test as statistical techniques. The findings reveals significant difference in relation to Sex, and not significant in relation to Settlement and social groups. The study also reveals that the overall attitude of Teachers is positive.

Index Terms- Geographic Education, Attitudes, Geography Teachers, Elementary Education, Arunachal Pradesh

1. Introduction

Geography as a subject enables us to understand the earth we are living in from a spatial viewpoint. It provides a link between the social sciences and the physical sciences, through the provision of an understanding of the dynamics of our cultures, societies and economics on the one hand, and that of physical landscapes and environmental processes on the other. Geography is an inclusive subject, but in India it is taught as a social science discipline. Geography is both a powerful medium for promoting the education of individuals and major contributor to international, environmental and development Education (Commission on Geographical Education of the International Geographical Union, 2004). Indeed, a recurring theme in geography is the way people organize and use the environment (Fien, Gerber, & Wilson, 1989) and this provides the basis for the argument that a school geography is responsive to the developments in geography and as a discipline will equip the students with the knowledge, skills and values as useful citizens of the world.

An effective geography instruction requires teacher to improve students' individual and group characteristics according to the knowledge, skills, and values embedded within acquisitions. In addition, they bring a lot of components by drawing various shapes over students' skill and personalities. Then teachers can adapt their students to the unique environmental conditions in the classroom ecosystem (Zabel and Zabel, 1996). In this sense, geography teachers provide the conditions that prepare their students for life (Levin & Nolan, 2000).

Today there is a rising need for geography in both students and teachers, which is known to mould and enhance their skills. The researcher in geography education has yet to flourish which requires investment in the continued training and development of geography education professionals so this is an attempt made to know the attitudes or thinking of Geography Teachers towards Geography Education in the selected three districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“A Study of Attitude of Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh”

Objective of the study: The study has been designed to test the following objectives;

1. To study the difference between the attitude of Male and Female Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

2. To study the difference between the attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. To study the difference between the attitude of Rural and Urban Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hypotheses of the Study:

H₀₁ There is no significant difference between the attitude of Male and Female Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

H₀₂ There is no significant difference between the attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

H₀₃ There is no significant difference between the attitude of Rural and Urban Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Methodology:

The Descriptive Survey Method was employed by the researcher to collect data from Teachers of various schools for the present piece of research work. The researcher used this method for collection of Teachers Attitude towards Geography Education and this involves Measurement, Analysis, Comparison and interpretation.

Population and Sample:

The researcher randomly selected three districts of Arunachal Pradesh namely; Lohit District, Lower Subansiri District and West Siang District. The sample comprised of 111 Teachers (Male-55, Female-56) from 45 Government Schools from the selected districts.

Table No.1: Showing the Distribution of Sex, Gender and Location of Geography Teachers in the Three Selected Districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Districts	Total Students	Race		Gender		Location	
		T	NT	M	F	R	U
Lohit	53	28	25	40	13	29	24
West Siang	26	10	16	26	0	17	9
Lower Subansiri	32	17	15	32	0	16	16
Total	111	55	56	98	13	62	49

Note: T-Tribal, NT-Non-Tribal, M-Male, F-Female, R-Rural and U-Urban.

Delimitations of the Study:

The sample size of study was delimited to;

1. Lower Subansiri, Lohit and West Siang Districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Only Geography Teachers.
3. The independent variables- Gender, Settlement and Social Group.

Tools Used in the study:

The investigator used a self-developed Attitude scale to measure the Attitude of Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in the Elementary Schools in Arunachal Pradesh and followed the procedure in order to make the questionnaire reliable and valid, The procedures of construction and Standardization of an attitude scale was adopted as suggested by Likert (1932). This attitude scale is popularly known as Liker’s five point scale because the each statement of the scale possesses five options for a respondent. The respondent was to put the tick/Correct mark on any one option as per his/her willingness. The items with ‘t’ ratio less than 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance were rejected on the basis that they had no

discriminating power. In this way, some items were rejected from the preliminary draft. This Scale consisted of 23 statements related to various dimensions on Geographic Education.

Statistical Technique Used:

The following statistical techniques were used by the investigator; Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test was carried out to analyse the collected data and verify the hypothesis.

III. RESULTS AND INTERPREATION

The major findings of the study as per variables wise of geography teachers towards their attitude on Geographic Education in the selected three districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Objective 1: To study the difference between the attitude of Male and Female Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the attitude of Male and Female Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table.2: Summary of computed Attitude Mean Scores, SD, SE_D and t-value of the scores of male and female Geography Teachers at Elementary School Stage in the Three Selected Districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Groups of Teachers	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	df	t-value	Criterion Value of 't' at 0.01 level
Male Teachers	55	90.62	3.20	0.68	109	11.15	2.62
Female Teachers	56	82.92	4.06				

* Significant at 0.01 level.

Interpretation of the result

The Table- 2 indicates that the attitude mean scores of Male Teachers is 90.62 which is marginally higher than the Female Teachers with 82.92 and computed t-value came out to be 11.15 which is greater than the table t-value(2.62) at .01 level of significant for 109 df. Therefore, the computed t-values (11.15) have been considered significant and the formulated hypothesis: "There is no significant difference between the attitude of Male and Female Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh" got rejected. This means that there exists difference in attitude of male and female teachers towards geography subjects.

Objective 2: To study the difference between the attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between the attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table.3: Summary of computed Attitude Mean Scores, SD, SE_D and t-value of the Tribal and Non-Tribal Geography Teachers at Elementary School Stage in the Three Selected Districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Groups of Teachers	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	df	t-value	Criterion Value of 't' at 0.01 level
Tribal Teachers	98	82.80	4.04	1.04	109	2.51*	2.62
Non-Tribal Teachers	13	83.50	3.50				

* Not significant at 0.01 level.

Interpretation of the result

The Table- 3 reveals that the attitude mean scores of Tribal teachers (82.80) is slightly lower than the Non-Tribal (83.50) teachers towards geography subjects and the computed t-value came out to be 2.51 which is lesser than the criterion table t-value (2.62) at .01 level of significant for 109 df. Therefore, the computed t-values (2.51) has not been considered significant and the formulated hypothesis: "There is no significant difference between the attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Geography

Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh” got accepted. It means that the Tribal and Non-Tribal do not differ in their attitude and they are equally positive towards geography subject in the selected districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Objective 3: To study the difference between the attitude of Rural and Urban Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between the attitude of Rural and Urban Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table. 4: Summary of computed Attitude Mean Scores, SD, SE_D and t-value of the Rural and Urban Geography Teachers at Elementary School Stage in the Three Selected Districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Groups of Teachers	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	df	t-value	Criterion Value of ‘t’ at 0.05 level
Rural Teachers	62	82.53	4.16	0.73	109	1.09*	1.98
Urban Teachers	49	83.33	3.69				

* Not significant at 0.05 level.

Interpretation of the result

The Table - 4 indicates that the attitude score of rural teachers (82.53) is slightly lesser than the urban teachers (83.33) and computed t-value came out to be 1.09 which is lesser than the table t-value (1.98) at .05 level of significant for 109 df. Therefore, the computed t-values (1.09) have been considered not significant and the formulated hypothesis: “There is no significant difference between the attitude of Rural and Urban Geography Teachers towards Geographic Education in Arunachal Pradesh” got accepted. It reveals that there is no difference in the attitude of rural and urban teachers towards geography subject.

Finding of the Study:

- There is a variation between the attitude of Male and Female Geography Teachers towards Geography Education. The study reveals that Male Teachers are having better attitude than Female Teachers.
- The attitude mean scores of Tribal teachers is slightly lower than the Non-Tribal teachers towards geography subjects but the calculated value reveals that the Tribal and Non-Tribal do not differ in their attitude towards geography subject in the selected districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Attitude mean scores of rural teachers are slightly lesser than the urban teachers but it reveals that there is no difference in their attitude towards geography subject.

IV SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

Suggestion for Further Research:

1. A comparative study of different states of northeast India towards Geography Education may be conducted.
2. Attitudes of Geography teachers and Non-Geography teachers towards teaching Geography may be conducted.
3. A Comparative study between Teachers and Students Attitudes towards Geography Education may be conducted.
4. A Comparative study between Teachers of Secondary Level and Senior Secondary Level towards geography Education may be conducted.
5. The Attitude of Government and Private School Students towards geography Education in to the different variables may be conducted.
6. A Comparative study between Students of Secondary Schools and Senior Secondary Schools towards geography Education may be conducted.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the present study on the attitude it reveals that the teachers are having positive attitude towards geography subjects in the selected three districts in Arunachal Pradesh. Whereas the study indicates that proper attention needs to be provided by the Government and Parents for improvement of geographic education at elementary school stages in Arunachal Pradesh. Lastly the findings of the research will helpful in the field of geography education especially for the teachers, subject experts, researchers, teacher educators and curriculum framers of elementary schools of Arunachal Pradesh.

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